

Abstract of the Disclosure

DETECTING NUCLEIC ACID DELETION SEQUENCES

5 In a method for determining the presence of deletions in nucleic acids, a sample
suspected of containing nucleic acid of interest is contacted with reagents including those
appropriate for short PCR and primers flanking the deletion sequence. The nucleic acid that has
been contacted with this material is amplified and identified. Wild type nucleic acids having
long sequences between the sequences that hybridize to the primers are not amplified. Mutant
nucleic acids are amplified. Thus, the detection of amplicons signals the presence of nucleic acid
10 sequences having deletions. Contacting the sample with cleavage reagent specific for the
deletion sequence cleaves wt DNA but not mutant nucleic acids that do not contain the deletion
sequence.

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